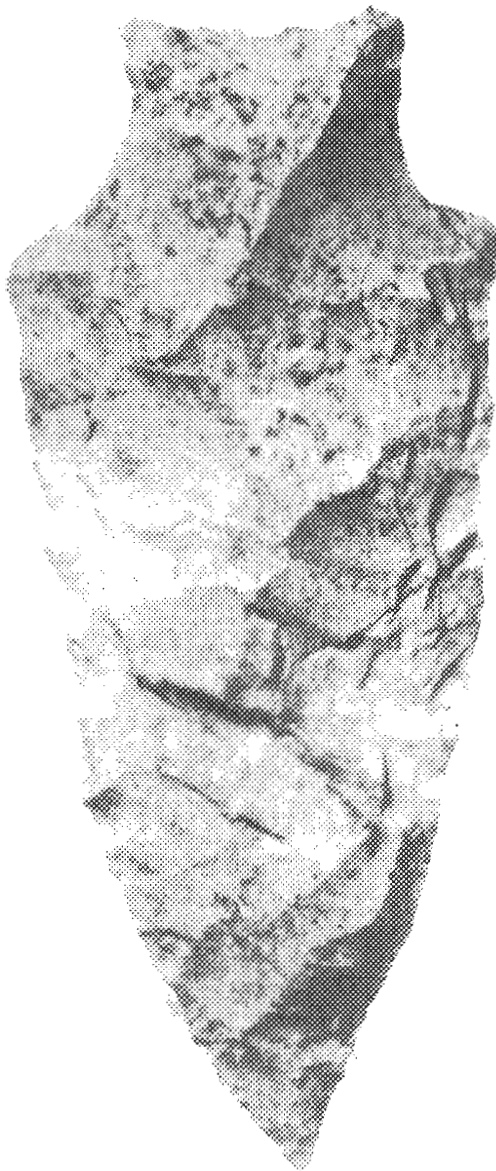


**INDIAN AND FREEDMEN OCCUPATION  
AT THE FISH HAUL SITE (38BU805),  
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



INDIAN AND FREEDMEN OCCUPATION AT THE FISH HAUL SITE  
(38BU805), BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

RESEARCH SERIES 7

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The folly of mistaking a paradox for a discovery, a metaphor for a proof, a torrent of verbiage for a spring of capital truths, and oneself for an oracle, is inborne in us.

Paul Valery, Introduction to the Method of da Vinci

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## ABSTRACT

The Fish Haul site (38BU805) is situated on Hilton Head Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina and consists of a Stallings component dating from about 1800 to 1300 B.C. and a historic freedmen component dating from about A.D. 1862 to 1880. Excavation of more than 4000 square feet at this site has been conducted by the Chicora Foundation and is discussed in this report.

Research on the subsistence and settlement patterns exhibited by the Late Archaic-Early woodland Stallings phase sites has traditionally emphasized the more obvious shell middens and rings of the Savannah River drainage and Georgia-South Carolina coasts. Some have viewed Stallings sites which lack shell midden accumulations as indicative of limited occupation in marginal areas. Data from the Fish Haul site suggest that these non-shell midden sites may represent a significant segment of a diversified settlement system.

Research at Fish Haul has examined the ceramics, lithics, and other aspects of the material culture. Data are also presented on the Stallings diet as evidenced by floral and faunal samples recovered from 1/4 and 1/16-inch screens, and flotation. The season and nature of the occupation are explored and evidence is offered of a possible Stallings phase structure.

While the events surrounding the "Port Royal Experiment" and their effects on Sea Island blacks have been the topic of numerous historical studies, virtually no archaeology has been conducted on the period of black cultural transition from slavery to freedom. Mitchelville is a freedmen's village on Hilton Head. As a self-contained village built, governed, and occupied by recently freed Sea Island Blacks, it represents one aspect of the much broader "Port Royal Experiment." This research at Mitchelville documents the social status, wealth, and lifestyle of the "contraband" blacks.

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